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Lawrence Schools Segregate Teachers

Partner with Racist Group That Preaches Anti-White Racism, White Privilege

PAGE 11

The Lawrence School System has engaged with a racist anti-white education group called BlackPrint.

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Valley Patriot of the Month

Rene & Pam Parent; a Father & His Daughter; Quietly Serving Our Nation!

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

WESTPORT, MA -I met Pam Melanson and her father Rene "Cap" Parent at the Wheelhouse Diner in Quincy, Massachusetts on a beautiful Saturday morning. Pam, who hails from Westport, MA, served our Nation in the US Navy Reserves for over fifteen years. She was called up on active duty during Desert Storm and backed filled a physical therapy position at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia. Naval leadership cut the Navy Reserve Medical staff loose after serving one hundred and seventy days on active duty, just ten days shy of the one hundred and eighty days required to meet the guidelines for Federal Veteran status. To non-Veterans, this may seem trivial or meaningless, but a "Veteran" designation affects access to Veteran's benefits (including educational and medical support) post military service.

While in high school, Pam Parent (her maiden name) worked as a Candy Striper at St Anne's Hospital in Fall River, Massachusetts. This led to an interest in health care, and Pam received a scholarship from the US Navy to attend college for Physical Therapy Assistant training for two years under a program named RAMP (Reserve Allied Medical Program). This program sends men and women to civilian schools to learn the skills needed to fulfill critical military health care NECs (Naval Enlisted Classification Code). Pam served as an enlisted Naval Hospital Corpsman, rising to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class or the rating of Hospital Corpsman Second Class. The NEC is a four-digit code in her personnel file that designates her as a Physical Therapy Assistant or PTA. When Pam enlisted, this field had a critical manpower shortage, opening an opportunity for her.

While attending Recruit Training at Recruit Training Command in Orlando, Florida, Pam failed the sit-up portion of her physical readiness test and was set back ten days in the training cycle. Upset over the failure, she shared her story with me; "when I failed my PT test, I couldn't call my parents, I lost

that privilege. I requested to see a Navy Career Counselor to contact Newbury College, to inform them that I may be late for the fall semester. While in the Chief Navy Career Counselor's office, his phone rang, it was my dad! Concerned about not hearing from me, he flipped through the phone listings for Recruit Training Command Orlando and randomly picked an office to call…it happened to be the one I was in at that exact time! So cool! Dad was the Command Senior Chief of Construction Battalion Hospital Unit -7 at that time". The Chief and her dad

HERO: PAGE 18

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Riverwalk Lofts Team Cleans Up O'Connell South Common

LAWRENCE – Last month, the team at Riverwalk Lofts in Lawrence organized a clean-up effort at O'Connell South Common on South Union Street.

Several team members and residents were in attendance to help clean up the park.

"Our team is always looking for ways to support the community, as well as to connect with our residents," said Carla Jacobson, Director of Residential Leasing.

"Cleaning up the park was a great way for us to show our love for Lawrence, as well as have a fun time getting to know the great people who live at The Lofts."

Riverwalk Lofts, located at 210 Merrimack Street, is an apartment community with close to 600 high end loft apartments and 10,000 square feet of resident amenity space.

To learn more about the Riverwalk Lofts and reach out to the leasing team about supporting your organization, visit www.theriverwalklofts.com.

Pictured at right (from left to right): Carla Jacobson, Director of Residential Leasing and Anna Jodka, Marketing Specialist for Riverwalk Lofts in Lawrence.

Student Mental Health Must Be a Legislative Priority

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

It is time to get serious about mental health services for our students. Even for years before the pandemic, we saw a concerning rise in stress, anxiety, and depression among young people. COVID-19 only made things worse. Last year, many Massachusetts emergency rooms saw 4 times more teens in need of mental health crisis support than usual. The state's youth mental health helpline, operated by the Massachusetts Child Psychiatry Access Program, has also seen utilization rise 34% compared to pre-pandemic levels.

This rapidly rising demand for youth mental health services has maxed out the capacity of our mental health care system. There simply aren't enough providers to meet the demand. The result is exceedingly long wait times to get an appointment – often months. For students who need treatment and support, waiting months can have a detrimental impact on their well-being, education, and social development.

We urgently need to increase the stock of mental health providers serving youth in Massachusetts. One solution is a bill I filed titled "An Act expanding licensure opportunity for school counselors" (H.351). This bill creates a more streamlined pathway for licensed school counselors to become licensed mental health counselors (LMHCs), which are able to perform a broader scope of services in the community.

The intent of this legislation is not to ease the requirements for school counselors to become LMHCs – anyone becoming a LMHC will still need to meet all legal standards for licensure. Rather, the bill would prevent school counselors from duplicating education, training, and experience that they have already completed.

School counselors currently find it difficult to become LMHCs because they may need to repeat previous coursework or even leave their job to meet clinical experience requirements. Reducing these unnecessary barriers will make it easier for our already highly qualified school counselors to practice more broadly – so that we can leverage the full capabilities of our mental health workforce.

This bill has been endorsed by the Massachusetts School Mental Health Consortium (MASMHC), the Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association, and the Massachusetts School Counselor Association's Government Relations and Advocacy Committee. It received a public hearing this summer and is currently under review by the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure in the State Legislature. We must act quickly and use all tools available to meet the mental health needs of our students.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity and as Chair of the Special Joint Oversight Committee on the Holyoke Soldiers' Home COVID-19 Outbreak. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380.

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DePena Pulls Off Upset Win, Defeats Acting Mayor Kendrys Vasquez for Mayor of Lawrence

Former At-Large City Councilor Brian DePena pulled an upset win over Acting Mayor Kendrys Vasquez in Lawrence on Tuesday.

Unofficial Results

Brian DePena 6,093

Kendrys Vasquez 5,338

Vasquez was appointed mayor by the city council after Mayor Dan Rivera abandoned the job to work for Republican Governor Charlie Baker earlier this year.

At the time, Vasquez said he would not run for the job if appointed acting mayor. He then declared himself a candidate a few weeks after being appointed.

Vasquez came in first place in the September preliminary election among five candidates, and was seen as the front runner through the entire race. DePena placed second in the preliminary, thinking the three candidates who lost would support him. None of them did. Willie Lantigua endorsed Kendrys Vasquez. Vilma Martinez stayed neutral publicly, but most of her supporters went with Vasquez.

Adding to Vasquez's front runner status was an infusion of campaign donations from outside the city, an endorsement by former Mayor Dan Rivera, State Rep. Marcos Devers, and several heavy hitters in Democrat politics in Boston.

TURNING POINT?

If there was a turning point in this election, some DePena supporters said it was when the Vasquez campaign circulated a flier attacking Brian DePena's wife and family with their photos on it.

"That was the beginning," campaign worker Jackie Marmol said.

"Brian was very down when he saw that flier, you could see how hurt he was. He's a positive person and he doesn't attack other people so he is always surprised when it happens like this. But, he didn't attack back, he didn't get angry, he just said 'OK, now we work harder.' That's when the momentum started to change."

"What kept the momentum going was when The Valley Patriot story about Lantigua endorsing Kendrys Vasquez came out. Willie was trying to be sneaky and he sent out endorsement messages to only his core supporters so nobody else would know, but the paper found out, printed the story, and that's when we started to see a difference at the doors. People were much more interested in hearing what Brian had to say after that."

Brian DePena said that he was very grateful for the help of the Lawrence Firefighters Union.

"They are the best of what they do in any city and their endorsement meant so much to me and the campaign. Their endorsement was a big help."

Acting Mayor Kendrys Vasquez conceded at his headquarters, getting teary eyed as he thanked his supporters and congratulated DePena on his win.

DePena celebrated at this headquarters on Broadway with his wife and family, announcing his victory to about 300 supporters. After about an hour of cheering and celebration, the DePena bus and a caravan of more than 30 cars paraded from headquarters to Lawrence City Hall.

Arriving to chanting and singing, DePena hugged every person he could until finally speaking over a bull horn.

"Now it's the people's turn!" DePena said over his cheering supporters packed into the lobby of city hall.

Pointing to the mayor's office on the third floor, he said, "See that office up there? That office belongs to the people! It doesn't belong to the politicians. It doesn't belong to the outsiders; it belongs to the community."

DePena also congratulated Kendrys Vasquez for a hard campaign and told The Valley Patriot he is set to hit the ground running "starting tomorrow!"

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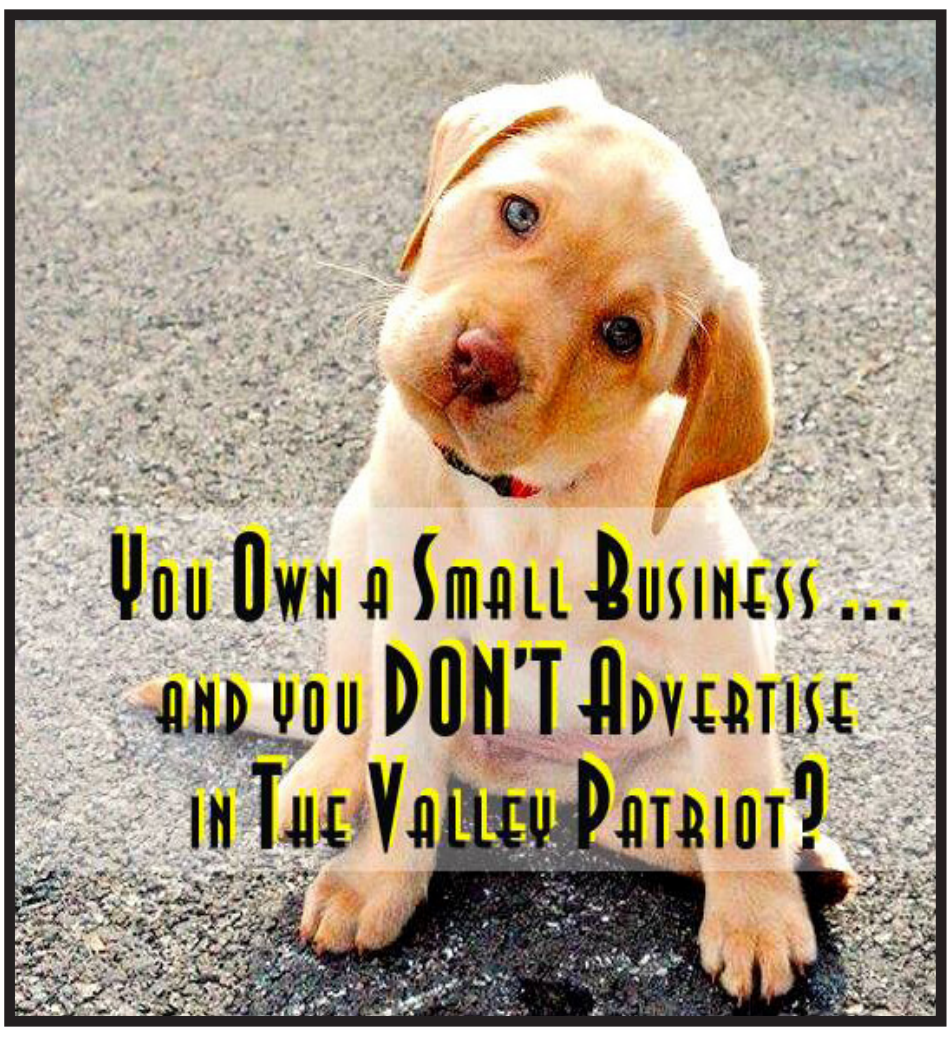

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To the Voters of District "B", everyone who supported me and voted for me in Lawrence, and in particular the readers of The Valley Patriot, THANK YOU for the opportunity to serve on the Lawrence School Committee. ~ Santiago Reyes Cruz, Jr.

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

The Merrimack Valley Chamber recently hosted a Ribbon Cutting celebration at STACKS located on 122 Washington Street in Haverhill.

FIORENTINI PULLS OF FINAL ELECTION WIN?

For years we have been hearing Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini say that "this is my last term" when running for reelection. In fact, he started saying that nearly ten years ago. So, when we heard this year again that Fiorentini is telling people that this is his last term, we dismissed it as just Jim being Jim. However, sources close to Fiorentini say that this time is different. Fiorentini's health is an issue and his ability to fully handle the duties of mayor grow harder and harder every day. It makes us wonder why he ran at all this year, but we now believe Fiorentini meant it this year when he said it would be his last campaign. Don't be surprised two years from now, however, if Jim runs "just one more time."

LAWRENCE OFFICIALS WANT CONTROL OF THEIR SCHOOLS

The Lawrence School System has been under state receivership (control) for more than ten years. In that time, the children of Lawrence have not received an even adequate education. In the final days of the Kendrys Vasquez administration, he and the school committee have petitioned the Department of Education to give local control back to the City of Lawrence.

While that prospect looks pretty dim at the moment, incoming mayor, Brian DePena, may actually have a formula to make that happen.

First, DePena said on the Paying Attention! Podcast that he is disturbed at the lack of accountability for teachers and administrators who provide sub-standard education for Lawrence students. He also promised to do everything in his power to hold them accountable. That's a good start. But, this early in the DePena administration, it seems premature to think about giving control of the schools back to Lawrence. He also said he is in favor of charter schools.

If DePena can devise a plan to automatically turn any failing Lawrence School into a charter school, where teachers and administrators are held 100% accountable for failing to educate Lawrence kids, then Lawrence will be well on its way to deserving local control again.

I have high hopes for Mayor DePena and I believe that he can begin the enormous task of fixing what is wrong with the Lawrence Public Schools. But that's going to take a little time. Let's see where the Lawrence Schools are a year from now under Brian DePena, and then maybe the state will be willing to give back local control. But not before then.

MARIA DELACRUZ DEFEATS RICHARD RODRIGUEZ

In the District "A" City Council race in Lawrence, incumbent Maria De La Cruz faced off against Richard Rodriguez. De La Cruz endorsed and supported Brian DePena in the mayoral race, while Rodriguez was supporting Kendrys Vasquez.

Looking at the numbers, that fact alone made all the difference. De La Cruz won her district seat back with almost the same number (certainly the same percentage) of votes as Brian DePena defeated Kendrys Vasquez in District "A". This race was more about who the candidates were supporting than it was a referendum on the candidates themselves.

LAWRENCE PARENTS DON'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT THEIR SCHOOLS

What was most shocking about the election in Lawrence last month was the fact that five people were elected to the school committee and none of them had any opposition. In fact, there were six open seats on the school committee and in District "D", that ballot was empty in the preliminary election as well as the final election.

The people of Lawrence, and in particular the parents of Lawrence school children, need to step up to the plate and get more involved in the schools. Granted, the current school committee has no power at all until the city regains local control, however, even acting in a purely advisory role, the input of parents is vital to shaping the education the kids of Lawrence are receiving... or not receiving as the case may be.

LOCAL OFFICIALS LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB

While almost every elected official in Lawrence and every official in Methuen was reelected last month, on election day, both cities were abuzz with talk of what each official would be running for next.

Since the state had redistricted the state rep. and state senate seats in Lawrence and Methuen, many of the people who were reelected were already looking for their next job.

Lawrence City Councilor Pavel Payano, who topped the ticket in the At-Large City Council race, is looking to run for the new State Senate seat that now has fewer precincts in Haverhill and more precincts in Lawrence. Estella Reyes who ran unopposed for the District "B" City Council is looking to run for the newly created State Representative seat the legislature carved out for Lawrence.

Former State Rep. Juana Mattias is also rumored to be running for the new State Senate race, while Santiago Reyes Cruz, Jr. who was just elected to the School Committee in District "B" is talking about running for Estella Reye's seat on the City Council.

In Methuen, Councilor Eunice Ziegler has expressed an interest in running for the new State Senate seat. Ziegler ran unopposed for her final term as the East District City Councilor along with Steve Saba.

For his part, Saba is looking to run for Mayor of Methuen in two years as Methuen Mayor Neil Perry had already declared on the Paying Attention! Podcast last year that he will not be seeking a third term if reelected this year.

Also looking to replace Perry in two years are Councilors Jessica Finocchiaro, DJ Beauregard, and Nick DiZoglio. There are also rumors that Lawrence Police Officer Mike Simard will running for mayor, though that seems unlikely.

Given that at least two thirds of the City Council in Methuen will be unable to run for reelection because of term limits, it's very likely even more councilors will throw their hat into the ring for the mayor's job in 2023.

PERRY FAILS TO DEFEAT DIZOGLIO

While he claims not to be a politician, Methuen Mayor Neil Perry was talking up DJ Beauregard and Joyce Campagnone for the At-Large City Council race last month in an attempt to unseat Nick DiZoglio. While his support helped to bolster Beauregard's numbers on election day to propel him into the first-place spot, he failed to knock out DiZoglio, who placed third (in an elect-3 vote). Looks like Perry and DiZoglio are stuck with each other for the next two years.

STEPHANIE INFANTE BREAKS BARRIER

In the District "E" (Mount Vernon) section of Lawrence, Stephanie Infante became the first Latina to ever be elected to the City Council from the predominantly white neighborhoods of Lawrence in the South Lawrence West area of the city. Infante was recruited and supported by outgoing District "E" City Councilor Dave Abdoo, who campaigned hard for his replacement. Abdoo served 14 years on the City Council and ran unsuccessfully against Willie Lantigua in 2009. Abdoo has been the voice of reason on the council and did an amazing job on constituent services. I know that Stephanie has really big shoes to fill, but I also believe she is smart enough and

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE

WINSTON SAYS!

To Methuen elected Officials, you do realize 32,000 voters dont give a damn about you ... right?

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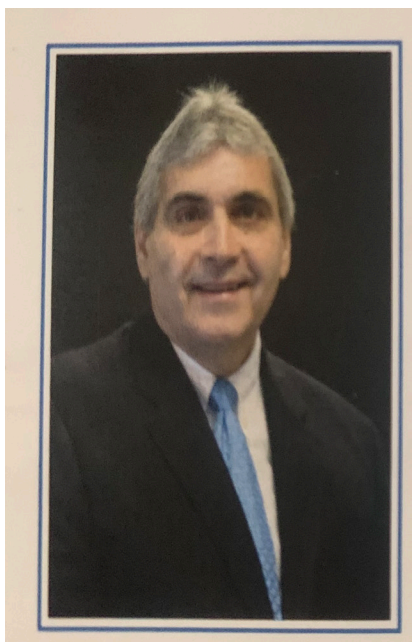

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

capable of handling that challenge.

PROP 2 1/2 OVERRIDE FAILS IN LAWRENCE

There was one ballot question in Lawrence on election day, and that was whether or not Lawrence can raise property taxes beyond the 2 1/2% maximum required by state law. At issue was the need to build a new Leahy School. This was spearheaded by the Lawrence Teachers Union, who simply want a prettier and newer building to NOT educate your children in every day. And of course, it failed, though only by 229 votes. The day after the election the Teachers Union sought to meet with incoming mayor, Brian DePena, to see if a recount or another vote could be held so they can get their way. The fact is, if Lawrence raises property taxes, landlords will raise rent to cover the additional cost. With a severe housing shortage in the valley, Lawrence voters were just not ready for that additional expense in their rent bills.

Lawrence takes in about $45M in property tax, yet the city spending budget is $355M. That means the state and federal governments kick in $310M to cover Lawrence's expenses. Because of this, I am normally all for a 2 1/2 override in Lawrence. But not for an exorbitant expense to appease the Lawrence Teachers Union who can't even do their job no matter what the classroom setting is.

DPW "AUDIT" SEEMS TO BE LACKING

While the City of Methuen is conducting an "audit" of the DPW, it seems more like they are conducting a survey of the "feelings" of DPW workers about their work and work environment. Not that this isn't important, but I have to wonder, if they are interviewing all the DPW workers about the inner workings of their department, they should also be talking to people who left DPW within the last few years to find out why. Clearly, the city will get much more honest answers about issues facing DPW from those who have nothing to lose.

GLCAC OFFERS FUEL ASSISTANCE FOR HEATING SEASON

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. is accepting fuel assistance applications for the winter heating season from Nov. 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022.

Funding is available to help pay a portion of winter heating bills for income-eligible households in Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Reading and North Reading. New this year is an option for water and sewer assistance for those who have been disconnected or have been threatened with disconnection.

Residents are encouraged to apply even if they work, live in subsidized housing, or if utilities are covered through rent.

Aid is available to pay a portion of winter heating bills for the primary heat source. Payments are made directly to the fuel provider and applies to oil, propane, coal, wood, gas, kerosene and electric.

Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member, 18 years of age or older. Income guidelines and a list of required documents is available at www.glcac.org under the fuel assistance program.

GLCAC's fuel assistance office is not open to the public, but staff is available by phone, email and at the Help Desk outside 305 Essex St. in Lawrence to process phone interviews, applications and answer questions about fuel assistance. To help handle the expected high volume of calls, more staff have been added. Calls will be answered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday will be set aside for scheduled phone appointments.

A fuel assistance staff member will also be available at GLCAC's Help Desk, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. GLCAC's fuel assistance program can be reached at liheap@glcac.org or by calling 978-681-4950. Home visits are available to handicapped or elderly residents who are homebound.

Applications have been mailed to previous clients. Clients who have not received an application or are new to the fuel assistance program can call, email or stop by GLCAC's Help Desk. Clients can also schedule a phone appointment or start an application online at https://toapply.org/GLCAC.

Completed applications and copies of required documentation can be either emailed to liheap@glcac.org; mailed to GLCAC LIHEAP, 305 Essex St., Lawrence, MA 01840; dropped in the drop box located outside 305 Essex St.; or handed over to staff at the Help Desk during business hours.

Mixed-Income Apartment Community
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254 BROADWAY, Methuen, MA 01854

Applications available 9/29/21 thru 11/27/21
online by visiting www.254Broadway.com
or by phone 413.883.6890 (TTY 711)

Mail completed application to: Peabody Properties, c/o 254 Broadway, 536 Granite St., Braintree, MA 02184 or email: 254Broadway@peabodyproperties.com

Deadline: Postmark/deliver by 11/29/21.

Information session live via Zoom on 10/13/21. A recording of the information session will be available online at www.254Broadway.com throughout this process.

Lottery to be held virtually on 12/15/21. Additional details will be provided in advance of the Lottery.

Rents & Income Limits

Type	# of Apts.	Rent	Income Limit	Minimum Income
1BR	11	$1,271	60%	$38,130
1BR	1	**	30%	n/a
2BR	22	$1,525	60%	$45,750
2BR	2	**	30%	n/a
3BR	3	$1,761	60%	$52,800
3BR	1	**	30%	n/a

Maximum Income

#HH	30% AMI	60% AMI
1	$23,700	$47,460
2	$27,100	$54,240
3	$30,500	$61,020
4	$33,850	$67,740
5	$36,600	$73,200
6	$39,300	$78,600
7	$42,000	$84,000

- **Rent determined by PHA based on income of applicant
- 3 ADA mobility accessible & 1 sensory units

AMI - Area Median Income, as of 4/1/21. Income, asset, use & occupancy restrictions apply. Rents & income limits based on HUD guidelines. Income limits subject to change. For more info, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call or email.

PEABODY PROPERTIES

Strong Leadership in Dracut Worthy of Celebration

Brian Genest
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Leadership and change begin at the top. In Dracut, you don't have to look any further than the town manager for proof. In just 18 months, Ann Vandal has made a tremendous difference for our town.

As reflected in the strong scores she was given by a majority of the board on her recent performance review, Vandal is doing a great job.

And she did so in a tough environment.

She was hired by a divided board. She inherited a procurement scandal. She was forced to deal with all the ramifications of COVID-19 on town operations, employees and citizens.

Despite the circumstances and the challenges, thanks to her leadership, Dracut is in better shape than it has been in quite some time.

Overall, Vandal scored an impressive 3.9 on a scale of 1 to 5.

Here's the performance rating she got from each selectman:

Joe DiRocco — 4.9
Alison Genest — 4.1
Jesse Forcier — 4.0
Tony Archinski — 3.4
Heather Santiago-Hutchings — 2.9

The majority of the board—DiRocco, Genest and Forcier—gave Vandal scores in the "Strong Performance" category.

During her public review, selectmen praised Vandal, her financial acumen and the leadership team she's put together, among other things.

"I think you are doing a fantastic job with managing the town," Chairman Alison Genest said. "You've surrounded yourself with some new hires that are strong folks. A true leader recognizes that you're not going to be an expert in every area, but you're hiring experts in those areas to make sure they're bringing that knowledge to the board so you can make even more informed decisions."

Forcier said he scored Vandal highest in the financial categories and echoed Genest's comments about surrounding herself with a strong team.

"My score speaks for itself; I think you're doing a fantastic job," Forcier said.

Archinski, who voted against hiring Vandal, gave her a score in the "Satisfactory" category.

"My score ended up being 3.4, which I think is about right," said Archinski. "But because I'm on the lower end of the scale, I don't want you to think that I don't appreciate what you do or that I don't give you credit for what you do. I've given you above average performance on all of them, especially in the financial management, and I'm happy with your performance. I thought I gave you a good evaluation."

Santiago-Hutchings gave the town manager a score in the "Needs Improvement" category.

"It's also your first review period and I think I'm a tough grader, just by profession. A score from me that says you're meeting expectations is a really solid, good score in your very first review period," Santiago-Hutchings said. "You did do an incredible job through, you did two jobs, through Covid and just getting through daily operations was really an enormous feat, so I appreciate you."

DiRocco, who gave the town manager a score just one-tenth of a point below the top category of "Excellent," cited Vandal's ability to navigate difficult situations, including the pandemic, staffing shortages and other challenges.

"I've seen the problems that you've gone through since you took over," DiRocco said. "I've been here through a couple of other managers, but I think your problem solving, to me, was second to none, I really do. I think you're going in the right direction and hopefully you'll be here for a long time."

Dracut would be lucky to continue with its current success at town hall.

Ratings aside, there's a number of noteworthy accomplishments definitely worth noting:

- The town banked more than $10 million in free cash last year.
- Roads, sidewalks, culverts and other infrastructure projects are underway. and many more will be checked off the to-do list.
- Veteran housing is being built for the first time in a long time.
- Open space, preservation and conservation remain high priorities for the town.
- There's a renewed focus on economic development.
- Morale at town hall is high.
- People in town are optimistic about our future.

Ann Vandal, with clear direction from selectmen and strong support from the townspeople, deserves a lot of the credit for that success.

Seeing Dracut be successful as the result of strong leadership is something we can all celebrate.

-- Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and the host of Eye on Dracut on DATV Channel 8.

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Marijuana Facilities Fail, Every Incumbent Re-elected
32K Methuen Voters Prefer to Stay Home

The question of whether or not Methuen should allow marijuana growing facilities to locate within the city was rejected by voters 2,266 to 1,681.

Every single incumbent official was reelected. Only two races were challenged.

Mayor Perry ran unopposed, as did East District Councilors Steve Saba and Eunice Zeigler. Central District Councilors Joel Faretra and James McCarty also ran unopposed as did the entire six-member school committee.

In the At Large (city wide) City Council race, the three incumbent councilors, Jessica Finocchiaro, Nick DiZoglio, and DJ Beauregard, were reelected. Joyce Campagnone, the only challenger, placed fourth.

In the West End District Council race, both incumbents, Allie Saffie and Mike Simard, were reelected; defeating newcomer and veteran Mike Downs.

Overall, there are 36,762 registered voters in Methuen.

Only 4,051 bothered to vote either in person or absentee ballot on Election Day.

This represents 11% of registered voters in the city. 89% of the registered voters stayed home (32,711).

Registerd Voters	36,762	
Turnout	4,051	11.02%
STAYED HOME	32,711	88.98%

According to the 2019 census there are 50,706 residents in the City of Methuen

Strengthening Supports for MA Military Families

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

While we have made important strides in recent years to help Massachusetts veterans – such as exempting members of the military in active duty from the automobile excise tax and expanding services and opportunities for veterans and their families through the Valor Act – there remains much work to be done.

That is why I am so pleased the Senate recently passed An Act relative to military spouse licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents, "The SPEED Act," legislation to bolster the support we provide to families of Massachusetts military members.

For military families, frequent moves are a way of life. Depending on the assignment, military members on average change stations every 24-36 months. This uprooting not only affects the service member - it impacts their entire family. Military spouses who hold professional licenses in other states must reapply for their license in Massachusetts. This can lead to periods of time where families are missing out on a key second source of income. The uncertainty can lead some service members to make the difficult decision to leave the military.

This ultimately puts our nation at risk. By putting service members and their spouses in an agonizing situation, we are hurting our force retention rate and jeopardizing our military's ability to be troop ready. Likewise, the children of service members are impacted by these transitions as well.

Families often miss out on registration deadlines because they are uprooted mid-year, and college students are also affected.

The SPEED Act eliminates the current law's 'substantial equivalency' licensure requirements, which require state agencies to determine whether other states' licensing requirements are substantially equivalent to those in Massachusetts.

It would also require the Division of Occupational Licensure to accept a spouse's application or notify of them of what criteria they did not meet within 30 days of applying, the timeframe recommended by the U.S. Department of Defense. While this 30-day time period is already frequently met by our state agencies, this legislation will make the requirement law.

The legislation waives the initial proof of residency requirement for school enrollment, allowing military children to begin attending school immediately upon moving to Massachusetts. It also allows for military parents to enroll their children in the Massachusetts virtual school network for greater flexibility.

The bill also creates a Purple Star School Program to designate Massachusetts schools that have demonstrated their commitment to military students and families by meeting specific state-designated requirements. This program encourages schools and districts to increase their supports for military families and helps the families identify the schools that are best prepared to meet their needs.

We must take every possible action to ease transitions for these families who are already sacrificing so much for us. I am hopeful we can get the SPEED Act to the Governor's desk as soon as possible.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at Diana.Dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,

Diana

Perry: Methuen Does Not Teach Critical Race Theory

In a spirited back and forth with Valley Patriot publisher, Tom Duggan, on the Paying Attention! Podcast, Methuen Mayor Neil Perry said, unequivocally, that Critical Race Theory is not being taught in the Methuen Schools.

The topic came up after a Methuen third grade teacher was called out on social media for signing a pledge to teach racism in the classroom.

Critical Race Theory was developed by the Democratic Party to teach children in public schools that white people are inherently racist, and that white people have "white privilege", whereas blacks and minorities are automatically victims of society because of white racism.

Duggan: "Is Critical Race Theory being taught in Methuen?"

Perry: "No it's not."

Duggan: "Are they teaching the same stuff that's in Critical Race Theory but just not calling it that?"

Perry: "No, we're not. The Curriculum is DESE (Department of Education) approved. Listen, the country is 51% to 49%, and as a guy who is dead in the middle…"

Duggan: "Dead in the middle, but you lean really left"

Perry: "I do, I lean more left… I would say my people policies are more left. But, financially I'm to the right. But, when you look at everything that happens in this country - locally, statewide and nationally - it gets zoomed in on based on your perspective. So, what happens is, people are filtering it through a lens. In my inauguration speech I said, 'first seek to understand', and we have not made progress there. I'm saying on the state, local, and national level we're not doing it, we are not seeking to understand."

Duggan: "You're not defending Critical Race Theory, are you?"

Perry "No, I'm not. But my point is that people use a topic like that to elicit some kind of reaction from certain groups of people."

Duggan: "That doesn't make the issue any less valid, does it? I mean, if Republicans and Democrats are on opposing sides of that issue, that doesn't mean it's not a valid issue, does it?"

Perry: "But, it doesn't mean either one of them are right though."

Duggan: "Well it does if both have diametrically opposing views, though. The Democrats want to teach this racist theory that white people are racist by virtue of being white and that we have 'White Privilege" and the Republicans are saying this is racist don't teach it to our kids."

Perry: "That's not true. You see, that's what inflames me about you. What you just said there is a crock."

Methuen Mayor Neil Perry and Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan mixed it up on the Paying Attention! Podcast last month, with Dav-id Consoli of Pleasant Valley landscaping on hand to referee.

Duggan: "What part of that was a crock?"

Perry: "You said 'all Democrats…'"

Duggan: "I didn't say all Democrats."

Perry: "Well, you say Democrats!"

Duggan: "OK, the Democrat Party leadership that runs the Democrat Party, I'm not saying every registered Democrat out there, I'm saying the party platform, and the Democrat Party leadership is pushing to teach racism to our kids and the Republicans are against it."

Perry: "Forget Critical Race for a second, when we had the riots before the election, is it not true that both parties used it to their advantage?"

Duggan: "Yeah, and so did the media."

Perry: "Right, and that's the point."

Duggan: "But, it doesn't make it any less of a valid discussion."

Perry: "It's used to divide us rather than having us sit back and think it through"

KANE'S CORNER

The History of Veterans Day

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT

Kane has been busy this month pulling out the history books and doing research on the origins of Veterans Day. He was surprised by the number of twists and turns the holiday has taken since it's recognition in 1926 under the name, Armistice Day. In fact, the conception of what we know as Veterans Day, had its origin much earlier.

According to the US Department of Veteran Affairs, an unknown American soldier was buried in Washington, DC at Arlington National Cemetery in 1921. The ceremony took place on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. This sounded very familiar to Kane! In 1926, November 11th was named Armistice Day. It was reported that it was named to indicate "The End of All Wars" at the End of World War I.

Kane learned the actual name Veterans Day was first utilized in 1947 in Birmingham, Alabama, organized by World War II veteran, Raymond Weeks. He petitioned Congress for 8 years to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Kane thought, "wow 8 years is a long time." Kane admired Raymond Week's determination.

The name Armistice Day was an optimistic, or maybe idealistic, name used to represent world peace at the end of World War II. In an article written in 2018 by Thomas V. DiBacco in the Orlando Sentinel titled, "An American Hero you never heard about," it was described that Raymond Weeks believed that all veterans should be recognized for their service. Memorial Day was for veterans that perished in the wars, Veterans Day would recognize living veterans and veterans from the past. Raymond Weeks was recognized for his unwavering service to the United States as the "Father of Veterans Day" by President Ronald Regan in 1982 when he received the Presidential Citizens Medal. President Eisenhower signed a bill in 1954 that officially changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

Yet another twist in the road changed Veterans Day from November 11th to the 4th Monday of October by Congress in 1954. This change was met with considerable resistance due to the historical significance of the November 11th date, so in 1978, the November 11th Observation of Veterans Day was reinstated by Congress.

A few of Kane's veteran friends asked him to include in his article that there is a difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Indeed, they are very different holidays. In an article in military.com written in 2021, Memorial Day is described as honoring Americans who perished during the war while Veterans Day

honors all veterans serving during wartime or peacetime. Although Veterans Day does include deceased veterans, there is much emphasis on living veterans.

So, what can we do to recognize our veterans on Veterans Day and really every day?

Kane wanted to share a few of his ideas:

Well for starters, how about flying a flag in respect for our country and sacrifices of those whom have served and continue to serve.

Why not attend a veteran's event and let the veterans know you appreciate their service to our country.

Kane suggests opening your ears; our veterans have a lot of firsthand information on the state of other nations and many would appreciate a listening ear in regard to their experiences while serving. Other veterans may not wish to share their experiences, but letting them know they are appreciated for their service may be received well.

Reaching out to the Veterans that you know on Veterans Day to recognize their service, also a good day to lend a listening ear.

Find a veteran's organization whose mission sparks your interest and donate or volunteer your time.

For deployed military members, why not sent a letter, a care package, or communication in general about what is going on at home.

If a military member is deployed, checking in on their significant others, children, and parents to see if there are any specific needs that you could help with. It may be an easy as a night of babysitting, providing a ride, or fixing something in the house. Deployed individuals often worry about their family, so knowing others are watching out for their needs is always helpful. Kane also thinks that dog kisses can go a long way.

Educate yourself on the key issues associated with the defense of our country. Returning from a deployment can be very lonely in a room full of people, but connecting to people who have educated themselves on current events pertaining to defense will allow a common bond.

Lastly, Kane would like to personally thank and salute all who have served! He sees you, and appreciates you!

Kane says Woof

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Lawrence Schools Segreagate Teachers, Partner with Racist Political Group That Teaches Anti-White Racism and White Privilege

Educators in Lawrence are being encouraged to attend a segregated "Auditing" session being conducted by a radical left-wing, racist group called BlackPrint.

According to their website, BlackPrint teaches and encourages the teaching of "White Privilege" (that White people are inherently racist and enjoy privileges in society other races don't enjoy).

BlackPrint first conducts an "audit" of the feelings of non-white teachers about race and racism, and then offers school districts "professional development" courses (teacher training) to change the "culture" in the classroom. BlackPrint is paid for their services by the district through grants.

Using the philosophy that only white people can be racist, PlackPrint calls their teacher trainings, and "audits" "anti-racism" while glorifying anti-white culture and vilifying "European colonization".

TEACHERS COMPLAIN ABOUT SEGREGATION

Christopher Markuns of the Lawrence Public Schools sent out the email (right) encouraging teachers "of color" to attend a town hall type session at the South Lawrence East School on November 20th. White teachers are not invited nor allowed to attend.

Several teachers in the Lawrence School system contacted The Valley Patriot asking for anonymity for fear that they will lose their jobs for speaking out.

"We give our hearts and souls to these kids no matter what their race is," one teacher said. "This kind of discrimination and segregation should not be allowed anywhere in education. I'm not white, but I want to know, is the Lawrence Public Schools going to 'audit' white teachers and staff to see how they feel about race and racism? Or how they may be treated differently because of their race? If I even ask that question at work I will lose my job."

Another teacher emailed The Valley Patriot saying;

"The following e-mail was sent to ALL Lawrence Public School Employees from the LPS Administration. However, as noted, in this email, the only employees invited to this event are "Educators of Color".

Many feel this is discrimination against one race by excluding "white-skinned Educators".

We are requesting that you publish and bring this to the public's attention to hopefully end this divisive behavior and segregation.

We would be extremely grateful if you could be a voice to get this information out for us to the public as we wish to remain anonymous for fear of retribution from our administration."

BLACKPRINT'S MISSION.

Professional development topics listed on BlackPrint's website include:

"Competency-Based Grading Is an Equity Issue" citing how grading a child based only on their competency is racist.

"Whiteness Studies – An Overview to Centering Whiteness - A comprehensive overview of Whiteness Studies tracing the political and economic history of the invention of 'whiteness' and analyzing the cultural practices in art, music, literature, and popular media that create and perpetuate 'whiteness.'"

"White Supremacy in District Public Schools - A crash course on and graphic representation of White Supremacy in District Public Schools. Although White Supremacy is often exclusively associated with groups like the KKK, the session examines the construct through the collective ideas that value whiteness over the cultures of people of color, especially those of African descent, and how this status quo manifests itself in District Public Schools."

"Critical Race Theory in the Visual Arts" - a teaching practice committed to an education that leads to action, reflection, and three forms of knowledge:

1. Technical-analytical thinking for Math, Science, STEM;
2. Practical-synthetic thinking for ELA, Writing, Social Studies;
3. Emancipatory-Socio-political and racial consciousness.

"On White Supremacy Culture" - A theatrical exploration of Jones' and Okun's brilliant definition of the phenomenon along with a guided reflection period about school/system practices that infuses historical framing.

"Becoming White: A Critical Reading Webinar" - An examination of the social, economic, and political process of becoming "white" through analyses of the Irish Catholic and Southern Italian immigration experiences, respectively.

"Applying The BlackPrint Racial Equity Tool**

"Decolonizing Data for Equitable Outcomes"

"On the Construction of Race" - A critical exploration of some of the important characters, events, motives, and themes in Europeans' construction and imposition of racial hierarchy."

SCHOOL DITRICT CLARIFIES BLACKPRINT'S ROLE

The Valley Patriot reached out to Chris Markuns, Manager of Communications for school district and confirmed his email was authentic.

"To grow in any area, you have to understand where you're starting from," Markuns told The Valley Patriot.

"It's fairly self-evident that in the area of race and equity, that means getting the honest perspectives and experiences of people of color. This is a confidential opportunity for them to provide those, and help provide an important baseline for the many conversations to come."

Teachers "of color" will be paid to attend the BlackPrint "audit" (per their contract) but that the funding comes from a grant that won't cost money out of the school budget.

Since white teachers are not allowed to attend, they are also excluded from the extra pay that teachers "of color" will receive for attending the "audit".

Markuns pointed out that BlackPrint is not doing any kind of teacher training, [as of yet] but merely asking educators "of color" about their experiences and how the schools can be more active in "anti-racism."

He added that this is not part of the curriculum, but a way to audit how the teachers "of color" feel about race and their treatment in the Lawrence Schools based on race.

The Valley Patriot has learned from sources in the Superintendent's office that there are no plans to ask white teachers how they feel about the way they are treated based on their race.

NEWCOMER OBJECTS

BLACKPRINT: PAGE 17

EMAIL TO ALL EDUCATORS
From: Christopher Markuns <Christopher.Markuns@lawrence.k12.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:50:19 PM
To: Christopher Markuns <Christopher.Markuns@lawrence.k12.ma.us>
Subject: LPS Equity Audit Town Hall

Dear Lawrence Public Schools educators,

In the spring of 2020, LPS committed to a process of creating an actively anti-racist school system. The country's struggle to respond coherently to equity issues paired with the pandemic hitting Lawrence especially hard made clear the need for a formal, comprehensive and public assessment of LPS policies and practices in relation to anti-racism, and that doing so would help ensure the best possible outcomes for our students.

An essential step in this process is an independent, district-wide equity audit featuring the voices and experiences of students, families and staff, which will be the foundation on which this work is built moving forward. Below, please see an invitation from BlackPrint, our partners in this effort, for LPS educators of color to participate in this important event.

Thank you and have an excellent weekend.

Attention, Educators of color:

Please join the BlackPrint team for a conversation about your experiences as an educator of color in Lawrence Public Schools on Saturday, November 20 at South Lawrence East Elementary School from 10am to 1pm. We want to hear your raw and honest opinions about Race, Equity, and Culture in LPS. This meeting will be completely confidential. In order to protect your privacy, all participants must sign a non-disclosure agreement in order to participate. Light refreshments will be provided. Come and let your voice be heard!

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Information session live via Zoom on 10/13/21. A recording of the information session will be available online at www.254Broadway.com throughout this process.

Lottery to be held virtually on 12/15/21. Additional details will be provided in advance of the Lottery.

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1BR	1	**	30%	n/a
2BR	22	$1,525	60%	$45,750
2BR	2	**	30%	n/a
3BR	3	$1,761	60%	$52,800
3BR	1	**	30%	n/a

Maximum Income

#HH	30% AMI	60% AMI
1	$23,700	$47,460
2	$27,100	$54,240
3	$30,500	$61,020
4	$33,850	$67,740
5	$36,600	$73,200
6	$39,300	$78,600
7	$42,000	$84,000

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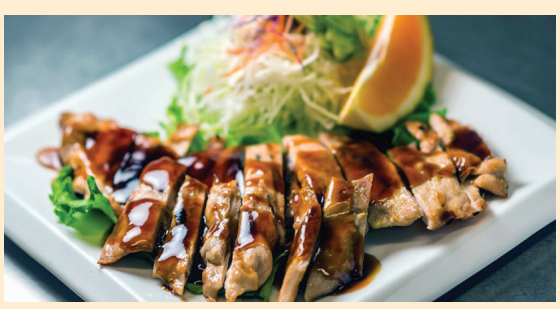

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Brian DePeña
MAYOR

Now, it's the people's turn

Thank You!!!

To the people of Lawrence, especially the readers of The Valley Patriot!

Thank you for putting your faith in me to lead the City of Lawrence for the next four years. I promise I will not let you down and always be here for you!

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Brian DePena

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

informally talked, because in the Navy and the Coast Guard, Chiefs, tend to "run things" and solve all kinds of problems. Pam was set back a few days in her training cycle to catch up and be better prepared for passing the physical requirements. Pam overcame this challenge, and successfully completed recruit training. Years later, Pam is still fit, active, and is an avid skier; she would sail through any Navy PT test today.

Pam spent most of her military career assigned to the Naval Air Station in South Weymouth, MA, while also serving the public as a PTA at St Anne's Hospital, the same facility she served at as a volunteer Candy Striper while still in high school. A working mom, her daughter was inducted into the National Honor Society this month at her high school, making Pam very proud.

Her dad, Rene "Cap" Parent began his Naval service after dropping out of high school. Like many of his generation, he was bored and unchallenged, sitting in a classroom for five to six hours a day. He started his career serving on the USS Purdy, DD 734. A ship with a storied career, the vessel served in World War II, Korea, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Mercury Space Program, earning four battle stars and surviving a Japanese kamikaze attack. While onboard, Rene told his Division Chief on the Purdy, that he wanted to work with metal, weld, and work with pipes. Rene recalls that his Chief, was really a great guy. The Navy (and his Chief), wanted Fireman Rene Parent to train as a Boiler Technician, but Rene really wanted to be a Shipfitter (a rating later changed by the Navy, becoming the rating(s) of Hull Technician and Damage Controlman). Rene left the surface fleet Navy after his Chief suggested he become a Navy Steelworker, a Construction Force, or Seabee rating.

After completing training as a Steelworker, Rene served with Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 10, 12, and 27. His first battalion was Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 10, with whom he served in combat in Vietnam during 1969. While there, he and his fellow sailors constructed one of the largest bridges built in Vietnam by US Military forces, a 900-foot-long bridge over a river in the Quảng Tri Province. Upon the 1954 division of Vietnam into North and South, Quảng Trị became the northernmost province of the Republic of South Vietnam. Rene and the Seabees were working very close to the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), the strip of land dividing North and South Vietnam.

His battalion served alongside the US Army's 101st Airborne at Camp Wilkerson near Phu Bai and Hue, and was involved with some of the heaviest fighting in Vietnam. The Seabees also constructed a railroad during the spring of 1968; the men building and finishing the railroad line stretching from Da Nang to Hue, completed a critical project that had been halted for three years due to relentless enemy fire.

Transferring from active-duty Seabees to the reserve Construction Force after serving in Vietnam, Rene also transitioned to the civilian workforce. He worked as a metal worker, as a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 17, which is a building trades union. Local 17 represents the more than 2,700 skilled and licensed workers throughout Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Rene tells an interesting story about his involvement with the British Navy, repairing damage to the HMS Walrus. Rene's work repairing the submarine at the State Pier in New Bedford, MA, earned him recognition from the Queen of England for his metal working ability. Accolades were taken from the actual entry in US Naval service record; "on his own time, using his own welding equipment, he repaired a welded joint on an exhaust snorkel on the HMS Walrus, working without guidance or supervision, the weld passed a critical x-ray inspection". He retired from Naval Service as the Command Master Chief of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 27, after serving our nation for thirty years.

Rene and his wife, Claire, were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on the day we met. The couple has two daughters, a son, and three grandchildren. Ending this article in Rene's own words, "I'm a Vietnam Veteran, who served with NMCB-10 at Quảng Tri in Northern I Corps. We built a 900 ft bridge over the Quảng Tri River, an experience worth a million dollars, that you couldn't sell for a dollar anywhere. Proud of serving as combat Vietnam Veteran (Rene has a Combat Action Ribbon) I was offered an early release from active duty after Vietnam, and I took it. The Navy's stipulation was I had to finish my time in the US Navy Reserves with the Seabees; that turned into 30 years of total service. Please be advised we, (Rene and his daughter Pam) are not heroes, we just served proudly and distinctively."

With a combined military service of nearly fifty years, Rene Parent and Pam (Parent) Melanson are truly, heroes in our midst!

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington, DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site, www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus.

He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@yahoo.com

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Connective Tissue Diseases and Autoimmune Conditions

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings all,

Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Lupus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Vitiligo, Scleroderma, are very serious diseases. although they can present as a spectrum with milder manifestations in some people and very serious in others.

We do not know the cause of these but I have opinions. I have the right to have my opinion as long as I am upfront in admitting that I could be wrong. Let me set the stage:

People love to take supplements and get angry if you tell them not to. The same goes for cleaning agents, beauty products, vitamins, perfumes, etc. We know that the FDA does not monitor these and their long-term effects on the body is not well known at all. Some of these products are not digested and excreted but remain in our tissues.

The proof is that tissue biopsies from most people are showing nowadays that our tissues contain very, very, many substances that they are not supposed to contain. This is not my opinion; it is established science. So, is it possible that our immune system that functions to attack foreign substances is starting to attack our own tissues, our own body that is imbibed with foreign material?

Many athletes use all sorts of enhancing chemicals (I have seen serious liver damage from these), people use way too much detergents, antiseptics. makeup, moisturizers. etc. People do not seem to realize that chemicals are more dangerous than bacteria. Many skin problems come from too much hygiene like Pruritus Ani, and facial, vulvar and hand dermatitis. I have seen a number of children with vulvar dermatitis getting a whole workup for sexual abuse when the problem was overuse of paper baby wipes!

Asbestos, aniline dyes, tobacco. Pioglitazone. all can cause cancer!

We cannot stay away from many of these chemicals, but maybe less of them is better, as much as possible. This is too serious a fact to be ignored.

You can submit your questions or comments to Dr. P. Ghassibi, MD at ghassibi@hotmail.com

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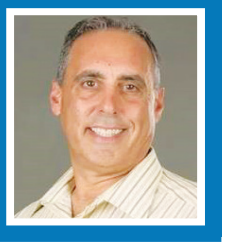

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for SEPTEMBER, 2021 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)

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William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Scott & Caroline Hansen, Louis & Leonilda Soares, $1,750,000, 6 High Meadow Rd Andover

William & Brian Miller, Michael Scott Development Inc, $405,000, 121 Andover St Andover

Joseph & Colleen Wolfgang, Andrew & Christine Mackenzie, $514,000, 15 Enmore St Andover

Joseph & Kellee Ruggiero, Rajat & Michelle Ghosh, $655,000, 149 Haverhill St Andover

Qun Su, Haixing Yan, $750,000, 33 Boardwalk Dr Unit 33 Andover

Whelan Living Tr & Janet Whelan Tr, Christopher Gorecki Tr & Christopher Gorecki Revocable Tr of 2021 & Laurie A Gorecki Tr & Laurie A Gorecki Revocable Tr of 2012, $530,000, 204 Chandler Rd Andover

Sally & Geoffrey Conway, Elizabeth, Stephen & Scott Eiseman & Diana Sackowich, $425,000, 44 High St Unit 1 Andover

Chad & Vivian Haydar, Sergio & Monica Villarreal, $920,000, 30 Farrwood Andover

Carmen Scarpa, Francis Amsler Tr & Amsler Family Irrevocable Tr, $900,000, 9 Swan Ln Unit 8 Andover

Mary Afarian, Charles, Michele, and Richele Allen, $700,000, 4-6 Ferndale Andover

Kevin & Kimberly Rose, Gerald & Keren Edwards , $1,250,000, 75 Spring Grove Rd Andover

Anil & Laura Nanda, Qian Xu, $486,000, 5 Porter Rd Unit 201 Andover

Murali & Rajan Somavarapu, James Lu & Mao Limin, $390,500, 1000 Spring Valley Dr Unit 100A Andover

Janice Goff & Elaine Robinson Tr & Goff One Family Trust, Marco & Cassia Jamur, $810,100, 36-40 Center St Andover

Gail Sendecke Tr & Mclaughlin-Sendecke Family Holding Tr, Clinton & Elizabeth Reiser, $749,900, 16 Sagamore Dr Andover

Duc Nguyen & Thi Dinh, Christian Brown & Kaitlyn Robitaille, $537,500, 70 North Main St Unit 70 Andover

Claudia Arrigg Tr & Claudia A Arrigg Revocable Tr & Paul Arrigg Tr & Paul G Arrigg Revocable Tr & Fred Arrig Jr Tr & Fred Arrigg Jr Revocable Tr, Ka Leong, $785,128, 68 High Plain Rd Andover

Mary B Leonard Living Trust & Mary Leonard Tr & Thomas Leonard Tr, Frontline Realty Inc, $235,000, 257 North Main St Unit 2 Andover

Dreher Family Tr & Dana Dreher & Sandra Nutter Tr & Sandra Oneal Tr, Roger Hernandez & Katerin Mercado, $655,000, 29 Corbett St Andover

Parthiv Corp, Bin Hu & Yuanhen Nominee Tr, $850,000, 195-195A Andover St Andover

Miranda Wang-Qiao, Xuan Zhang & Ling Wu, $470,000, 651 Brookside Dr Unit 651 Andover

Stephen Fabiani Tr & Hope Fabiani Tr & Fabiani Family Tr, Matthew & Amy Fabiani, $900,000, 4 Korinthian Way Andover

Abbott Lowell & Carla Melucci, Gabriella Williams & Matthew Mayo, $882,500, 16 Exeter Way Andover

Krista Larocca & Brian & Krista Toomey , Jessica & Nicholas Abreu, $775,000, 9 Noel Rd Andover

Nicholas & Jessica Abreu, Farid Sabzalipour & Seyedehparisa Sadjady-Alipour, $630,000, 4 Olde Berry Rd Andover

William Fahey, John Haroutunian, $525,000, 40 Brown St Andover

P8/Oliver 150 Dasomb LLC, BPP Partners Industrial Property Owner LLC, $42,000,000, 150 Dascomb Rd Andover

Mary Ellen & Allen Johnson, 536 North End Blvd LLC, $530,000, 5 Matthew St Andover

Jeremy Hakanson, Zhengwang Sun & Meixiang Jin, $245,100, 2 Colonial Dr Unit A2-5 Andover

George Monks Tr & Cipriano Realty Trust & Maria Monks Tr & Charles Cipriano Monks Tr Alicia Monks Tr, David & Lisa Diantonio, $1,225,000, 30 Morton St Andover

Danielle & Mark Benson , Marc Fiscel & Samantha Petrou, $1,400,000, 359 North Main St Andover

Jiamdong Shi & Min Wang, Nicholas & Maya Price, $1,020,000, 10 Starr Ave East Andover

Mauren M Burns-Murtha Living Tr & Maurenn Burns-Murtha Tr &John Murth Tr & John D Murtha Living Trust, Jason Feinberg, $910,000, 206 Shawsheen Rd Andover

John & Maureen San Cartier, CarmenScarpa Tr & 171 Highland Road Tr, $2,200,000, 171 Highland Rd Andover

Ian & Karen Finley, Emily Benson & Gregory Buia, $735,000, 86 Central St Andover

Conrado & Aileen Suriaga, David Hibino & Christine Nash, $705,000, 405 South Main St Andover

Gary Jaworski, Mark Benson, $699,000, 17 Porter Rd Andover

Springburn LLC Series Park Street Village, Park Street Offices LLC, $4,750,000, 63 Park St Andover

Canh Tran & Minh-Ha Dang, Misun Chung, $860,000, 127 North St Andover

Vincent & Andrea Cinseruli , Ali Jon & Ali Shahzad, $750,000, 12-14 Juliette St Andover

Gary & Beverly Conrad, Gregory Lewis, $740,000, 272 Highland Rd Andover

Barbara Mainen Tr & Mainen Revocable Tr, Erin McKinnon & Jeffery Lamourine, $530,000, 21 Gleason St Andover

Marie Swain, Patricia Wetzel & Elizabeth Hengeveld, $385,700, 1 Francis Dr Unit 304 Andover

Sarojini & Chandra Masih, Argiry Panagopoulos, $270,000, 179 North Main St Unit 179 Andover

Craig & Michelle Tetreault, Edward & Judith Silva, $830,000, 90 Elm St Andover

Suzanne Smith, Jianxian Zhen & Jie Xu, $1,340,000, 4 Orchard Crossing Andover

Arthur & Beth Lynch, Melyned Figueroa, $300,000, 177 North Main St Unit 177 Andover

LAWRENCE

Incompass Human Services Inc & Class Inc, Nunez LLC, $2,025,000, 1 Parker/ 51-55 Merrimac St.

Rosanny Soto & Stephanie Almonte, Ana Ramos & Alexander Valdez-Ramos, $520,000, 32-34 Bromfield St

Gilberto Pitta & Josefina De Pitta, Jennifer Polonia & Florentina De Gomez, $610,000, 51-53 Milton

Elena Garcia & Miguelina Abreu, Richard Duran-Lora & Estefania Musseb, $602,000, 65-67 Jamaica St

Elvin Rodriguez, Ana & Eliezer Gomez, $580,000, 8 Katherine St

Susan Muraco & Daniel Cargill & David Cargill & Mary Macpherson, Yeimy Vasquez, $477,000, 10 Harrison

Edna I McGovern Irrevocable Trust & Leo Lamontagne Jr Tr & Albert & Lorraine Gervais Irrevocable Tr & Michael Gervais Tr, Yovanny Mata & Xiomara Ortega, $444,263, 61 Genesee St

Susan Nichols & Deborah Stowell Est, Felix Bernabel, $345,000, 84 Gilbert St

Ashley Rivas, Jose Espinal, $295,000, 193 Ferry St Unit 1A

Michael & Lorraine Gervais, Yovanny Mata & Xiomara Ortega, $50,737, 61 Genesee St

Jorge Garcia & Ybonis Delacruz, Elvis Ortega, $690,000, 32-34 Poplar St

Friba LLC, Orlyn Medina & Darleni Vlaun & Denisi Guzman, $550,000, 17 Saxonia Ave

Willing Shepherds of Jesus Christ Inc, Evelyn Lima & Nery Meda, $400,000, 26 South Bowdoin St

Varnum & Rita Hoyt & Varnum & Rita Hoyt Family Tr, A & A Property Management LLC, $700,000, 356-360 South Union St

Johnny Rivas, Osiris Vasquez & Yoany Encarnacion, $420,000, 52 Cambridge St

Luis Burgos, Arisleida Burgos, $400,000, 9-11 Buswell St

Flavia & Brander Cancel, Zulay Maisonet, $189,000, 35 Maple St Unit 26

Jeannete Helleis-Lorenzo , Ramon Almanzar & Darky De Almanzar, $355,000, 24 Chardon St

Maria Manriquez, Juadith Manriquez, $260,000, 3-5 Woodland St Unit 3

Robert Wheeler & Clyde Wheeler, Augusto Delacruz, $201,000, 128 Sylvester St Unit 1

Maria Castellanos & Johnny Urena, Franklin Guzman, $722,700, 69-71 Crescent St

Carlos Cepeda & Kenia De Cepeda, Nestor Batista & Jessica Bencke, $640,000, 109-111 Shawsheen Rd

Audley Jones, Hector Romero & Blanca Turbi, $377,000, 39 Inman St

Elmer Pineda, Jesus Estevez & Crismeldy De La Rosa, $640,000, 304-306 Lawrence St

Carmen Difo & Jaime Mendoza, Yissel De Duran & Fernando Reyes, $425,000, 29 Kingston St

Maria Hernandez, Lourdes Baez-Vazquez & Alondra Santana, $350,000, 130 Byron Ave

Oval Re Assets Corp, Carmen Ovalles, $531,250, 41-43 Brookfield St

Madison Marasca & Joel Berger, Yao Liu & Yingxin Ye, $390,000, 26 Haverhill St Unit A

Milwood Realty LLC, Hossiri & Leislie Solo, $365,000, 543 Andover St Unit 3

Sarai Coleman & Sarai De La Cruz, Bread and Roses Housing , $75,000, 95 Alder St

Francisco Taveras & Evalis Cruz, Juan Rodriguez & Elda Chavez, $405,000, 17 Camden St

Franklin Bautista & Yohanael Silverio & Maria Moreta & Laisha Guzman, Aleida Herrera & Mathevis Almonte, $714,000, 100-102 Chester St

Michael & Elaine Hanson, Jose & Wendy Estrella & AG&J Realty Trust, $475,000, 275-277 Water St

Placido & Silvio Laudani & Nancy Iacono, Steven Iacono, $400,000, 20 Thomas Rd

Patricia Lynch Tr & Lynch Berthiaume Trust of 2020, 67 South Bowdoin Tr & Patricia Lynch Tr, $100,000, 67 South Bowdoin St

Eugenio Burgos , Carlos Valdez & Jose Almanzar & Alexandra Hernandez, $604,000, 12-14 Floral St

Michael McDonald, Dawa Inc, $245,000, 7 Lincoln St Unit 7B

Susan Pappalardo & Design Woodworking Realty Tr, DLC Phase Three LLC, $562,500, 530 Essex St

Marcia Santos & Luis & Saul Ortega & Glenny Luna, Eustacio Reyes & Arnulfo Hernandez, $624,000, 182 Garden St

Shamrock Realty Trust & Robert Kelley Tr & Paul Demarco III & LCW LLC, Fermin Family LLC, $1,575,000, 130 Parket St

Joseph & Kristyn Porcaro, Kendrys Vasquez, $529,000, 17 Ridge Rd

Arturo Pena & Edwin Holguin, Antonia Cardona, $410,000, 30 Osgood St

Germania Leonardo, Perla & Andres Guzman, $359,000, 17 Hall St

55-55A Newbury St LLC, LLL Realty LLC, $950,000, 55-55A Newbury St

53-53A Newbury St LLC, Cepeda Investments LLC, $950,000, 53-53A Newbury St

Mauricio Lopez, Victor Paulino, $660,000, 151-153 Warwick St

Marleny & Israel Rodriguez, Jelinson Gonzalez, $628,000, 70 Salem St

Robert Almonte & Ida & Aida Soriano, Francisco Hernandez, $355,000, 8A Salem St

Jason Azzi Tr & Boston Pyramids Trust, Raysa Rodriguez, $195,000, 260 East Haverhill St Unit 8

502 Lawrence Street LLC, Alvaro Delacruz, $135,000, 11-21 Lawrence St Unit 502

Rafael Monegro, Jairon Ramirez & Angela Cuevas & Ana De Coiscou, $660,000, 515-517 Hampshire St

Albert Pombar, Jesus Hidalgo & Johanny De Hidalgo, $580,000, 92-94 Irene St

Ronald Maldonado, Felix Betances & Esthefany Gonzalez, $500,000, 25 Arlington St

New England Home Buyers LLC, Ronilce Galdino, $465,000, 15 Roberta Ln

Millwood Realty Inc, Moises Medina, $372,000, 543 Andover St Unit 2

Wan Dong & Ronghang Zhang, Salvador Abreu, $670,000, 93-95 Bowdoin St

Wayne & Julia Scott, Luis Dominquez, $250,000, 21 Birch St

John Playdon Est & John Playdon, Kyle Goebel & Julia Blatt, $170,000, 697 Lowell St.

METHUEN

Tina Micolosi & Hillary Dimauro & Jeffrey & Bronwin Crocker, Roberto Calderon, $625,000, 10 Grace St

Lucia Pais, Kerri Bowden, $489,900, 41 Hampstead St

David and Rebecca Ohearn, Dominga Romano, $410,000, 6 Lyndale Ave

Aarthy Balakrishnan, Michael Tylenda, $375,000, 7 Leah Cir Unit 175

Norman & Constance Macquarrie, Lindsey Milito, $530,000, 99 Bridle Path

Melida Sanchez, Daury Medina, $475,000, 1 Beedle Ter

Jason Renda, Luke & Soapheak Olsen, $410,000, 140 Oakland Ave

Amelia Barbagallo, Jean Sainme, $529,000, 20 Alderbrook Ln

Arthur & Bonnie-Beth Krikorian, Daiane Amaral, $477,000, 25 Brookedale Ave

Jeffrey Falardeau, Friba LLC, $275,000, 252 Lowell St

Lejin Huang & Hong Guo, Philip & Patricia Grant, $710,000, 66 Sherwood Dr Unit 208

Utkarsh & Twinkle Patel, Maroun & Mirna Bechara, $315,000, 27 Christopher

REAL ESTATE: PAGE 22

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"We are either going to follow the example of Martin Luther King or we're not. We should not be spending a dime, grant or not, on our differences. It's very divisive and it doesn't help our community heal or make advancements, it puts us against one another.

~ Santiago Reyes-Cruz, Jr.
New Dist B School Committee

BLACKPRINT - FROM 11

Incoming District "B" School Committeeman Santiago Reyes Cruz, Jr. said that when he takes office in January, he is going to do what he can to stop the practice of focusing on race of any kind in the Lawrence public Schools.

"First of all, you will notice in that email that everyone attending has to sign a non-disclosure agreement," Reyes-Cruz, Jr. said.

"That means no transparency, anyone who attends is prohibited from telling parents, administrators, or anyone else what is discusses by, or with BlackPrint during this "audit" of teachers 'of color'. I think we all know why that is. They are hiding their real agenda. Racism is racism," Reyes-Cruz said.

"Why are we focusing on race? What they should be focusing on is, why our kids are not being educated the way kids in Andover and North Andover are being educated."

"Focusing on race doesn't help us achieve that goal, it creates excuses for failure and distracts us, while our schools continue to fail the children of Lawrence."

"We are either going to follow the example of Martin Luther King or we're not. We should not be spending a dime, grant or not, on our differences. It's very divisive and it doesn't help our community heal or make advancements, it puts us against one another. We should be looking for ways to bring people together and focus on what we all have in common; our love for our community, and our love for the freedoms this country affords, our love of all our neighbors, Black, White, and Latino."

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Christmas Stockings to be Collected for Veterans at Battlegrounds Coffee Company

Starting on Veterans Day, November 11th, and running until December 11th, Christmas Stockings will be collected at all Battle Grounds Coffee Company locations and will be cdistributed to local veterans. All Christmas stockings collected will be distributed to veterans through the support of our local Veteran Service Officers, and veteran organizations like Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, VFW Lorriane Post 29, AMVets Post 147, and more.
This project stems from local veteran Donald Jarvis, who ran a collection for Christmas stockings last year. “The intent is for these Christmas stockings to provide some additional holiday cheer this year to our local veterans,” said Jarvis. Jarvis hopes this year will bring in the same support as it did last year. Noting that through effects of the team last year over 100 stocks were donated and even Veterans in the South Shore received a few stockings.

Christmas stockings can include but are not limited to, thank you cards, hygiene products (male and female), gift cards, puzzle books, candy, and more. Those who would like to donate a Christmas stuffing can drop them off at any of the 3 Battle Grounds locations. The location of all the Battle Grounds Coffe shops are Haverhill at 39 Washington St, Newburyport at 33 Pleasant St, and their new location at Cedardale which is located at 931 Boston Rd, Bradford. All the locations will be collecting stocks from November 11, 2021, to December 11, 2021.

If you or your organization wishes to donate a large number of Christmas stockings at one time please coordinate first with Donald Jarvis. We would like to be mindful of the day-to-day business operations at Battle Ground Coffee Company. A large donation of Christmas stockings is very much appreciated and we can arrange a time to do the exchange. The best way to reach Donald Jarvis is by email: jarvis.don@gmail.com

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Redistricting After the Census and its Local Affects

After the release of the U.S. Decennial Census, Massachusetts is mandated by the United States Constitution and Federal Voting Rights Act to change its House, Senate, Governor's Council and Congressional district boundaries to accommodate shifts in population and provide equal representation to its citizens.

Census data show that Massachusetts’ population growth over the last decade was driven by Black, Hispanic, and Asian residents. Advocacy groups have advocated that lawmakers must draw districts that empower those communities of color to elect their preferred candidates, sending them to a Legislature that has remained far whiter than the state as a whole.

The Drawing Democracy Coalition recently argued that lawmakers may have violated voting rights law by not drawing a majority-minority Senate district based around Brockton, whose entire State House delegation is white. But by now reshaping the lines, the Senate map would double the number of majority-minority districts in the 40-member Senate chamber from three to six. The other two, featured in the original plan, include Lawrence and a combination of Chelsea, Everett, Charlestown, and Cambridge.

This is the power of a fair and transparent redistricting process — community members, advocates and local officials made their voices heard and demanded more equitable representation for Black Indigenous People Of Color, immigrant and low-income communities in Massachusetts, and the Redistricting Committee listened,” said Beth Huang of the Drawing Democracy Coalition and the Massachusetts Voter Table. “As a result, BIPOC voters across the commonwealth, and particularly in Brockton and Lawrence, will have greater opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.”

The change will allow the new district’s Hispanic majority to elect a candidate of its choice. The state Senate is overwhelmingly white, with people of color holding only two of the 40 seats — Sen. Adam Gomez and Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, who is running for governor next year and therefore not seeking re-election.

House and Senate leaders said they drew the new district map lines with the goal of amplifying the political voice of people of color in the communities where their ranks have grown the most over the past decade: largely in the Boston area, but also in Worcester, Springfield, and Lawrence, a Latino-majority city of immigrants in the Merrimack Valley.

The Legislature has drawn an incumbent-free Merrimack Valley Senate seat where 59 percent of residents, and 49 percent of eligible voters, are Hispanic. The new map splits Lawrence from Andover, its much wealthier, white-majority neighbor to the south, and instead pairs the immigrant city with parts of Haverhill and Methuen, where locals say the community overlap is much more natural.

“The change was needed,” says former State Senate Candidate Doris Rodriguez, who ran back in 2014 for State Senate in the 2nd Essex and Middlesex District which consisted of Lawrence, Andover, Tewksbury and Dracut, when the seat was vacant.

“The way the district was created made no logical sense. There were four communities with different needs and many on the opposite sides of the spectrum. The change was well overdue. You cannot have full representation if you don’t have diversity. I believe redistricting will allow transparency on the issues and allow everyone, including Hispanics, to have representation on Beacon Hill. I would definitely consider running for the seat next year.”

The Legislature has also made changes to the House where Haverhill will go from four state representatives down to two and will greatly impact Bradford, which is currently represented by Lenny Mirra, Christina Minicucci and Linda Dean Campbell, whose district will become much larger in terms of population.

Under the new map lines, the 15th Essex District, currently represented by Campbell, would encompass most of Bradford and a large section of northwestern Haverhill, while the 3rd Essex District, currently represented by Andy Vargas, would include the rest of Haverhill.

There will also be another new incumbent-free House seat, 4th Essex District, which will also consist of Lawrence and Methuen.

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

‘CODA’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

AppleTV+ is currently the only streaming service that produces 100% original content. That content, from original series, documentaries, and films, has consistently been of high quality. Their most recent original film, ‘CODA’, is no exception.

Ruby Rossi (Emilia Jones) is in her last year of high school. She doesn’t have much of a plan beyond graduation, because she assumes she’s going to continue as she has been, working with her father and brother on the family fishing boat out of Gloucester, MA. Ruby loves music and loves to sing, but the idea of actually trying to study or explore music seems like an impossible idea, even after her choir teacher, played by Mexican star Eugenio Derbez, sees promise in her and encourages her to apply to Berklee College of Music in Boston. The problem for Ruby is, that this will send her, for the first time, away from home. “There are lots of lovely voices that have nothing to say,” Ruby’s teacher tells her, almost like a sales pitch. “Do you have something to say?”

As a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults), Ruby is the only hearing person in her deaf family. When the family’s fishing business is threatened, Ruby finds herself torn between pursuing her love of music and her fear of abandoning her parents (Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur). The fundamental conflict for Ruby is the disruption it would cause in her family for her to leave. She’s been her parents’ interpreter since she was a child, and she feels responsible for things like making sure her father isn’t cheated when he sells his fish at the end of every day.

Her family will never understand the pull music has for Ruby, but at the heart of ‘CODA’ is the gradual understanding that that doesn’t matter. That you can love someone without being able to understand everything they love. At a key moment in the film, during Ruby’s school concert, the sound drops out, and we experience the event as her parents are — smiling, and clapping along when others do, and looking over the faces of their fellow audience members for a sense of their reactions. Then after the concert we get treated to a total knockout of a scene between Ruby and her father.

‘CODA’ has a terrific cast. Oscar winner Marlee Matlin, as Ruby’s mom, is excellent as always. Troy Kotsur as Frank, Ruby’s raucous dad, is hilarious and heartbreaking. But make no mistake about it, this is Emilia Jones’ movie. This is a star making role for her and should earn her a well-deserved Oscar nomination. Jones, a British actress, had a steep learning curve. She needed to master American Sign Language, speak in an American dialect, and yes, work on a real fishing boat. She clearly already could sing, though.

Directed and written by Sian Heder, ‘CODA’ is closely based on a 2014 French film called La Famille Bélier, but this version has one important quality that the French film didn’t: The deaf characters are played by deaf actors. The film took the Grand Jury Prize for US drama at this year’s Sundance festival and, following a bidding war, sold to Apple for a record $25 million.

This film isn’t just a story of a girl chasing her dream, it’s a film about a hearing person’s relationship to deafness and deaf culture, it’s just as much about deaf characters’ relationships to a hearing world, whose norms most hearing people take for granted, and whose obstacles can impact everything from labor to self-worth. It’s about letting go and letting your loved ones soar.

However you say it or sign it, ‘CODA’ is an emotional powerhouse and one of the year’s best movies.

‘CODA’ is available to stream on AppleTV+.

If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.

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WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

October Saw Above Average Temps

Welcome to November and the continuation of the fall season.

On Sunday November 7th at 2AM, daylight savings time ended and we returned to standard time by turning the clocks one hour back (fall back). On that day the sunset was at 4:30PM.

The daylight will continue to get shorter as we move through November.

During November, we can get some cold air and even snowstorms, which have, and can occur before Thanksgiving.

In contrast, we can also see warm temperatures in November in the 60’s and even 70’s are possible. However, being November, any warm air in the atmosphere does not last very long.

In terms of tropical weather, we are well past the peak of hurricane season. But hurricanes can still occur in November. The hurricane season ends on November 30th.

Recapping October, it was another month of above normal temperatures. We saw warm temperatures through the first three weeks of the month. Some chilly air gave us some days which averaged below normal during the last week of the month. With abnormally warm temperatures, many days having seen high temperatures in the 70’s, a lot of people wore shorts resembling weather more like late summer than fall.

For October, the average high temperature in Boston was 66 degrees, which was 4 degrees above normal. The average low temperature was 54 degrees, which was 5 degrees above normal. This October ranked #4 as the warmest October on record.

The records date back to 1872. During the last week in October, the warm and dry weather came to an abrupt end. The last warm day was Friday, October 22nd. The weather pattern then became very active; a big change from the previous three weeks.

On Sunday October 24th, a low-pressure system was located near the Ohio Valley. This low pressure moved east and phased with another low-pressure system off the Mid-Atlantic coast, leaving just one low pressure system.

This low-pressure system rapidly intensified into a bomb cyclone. This storm gained intensity from being over warm ocean waters and also the energy it got from the low-pressure system near the Ohio Valley.

A bomb cyclone occurs when a low-pressure system has a drop in central pressure of 24 millibars in 24 hours. Nantucket Island dropped 28 millibars in 24 hours. This very strong storm was first located south/southeast of Nantucket and then started to loop back and moved across Nantucket Tuesday night into early Wednesday morning October 27th before moving back out to sea slowly late Wednesday and Thursday. This storm made a loop which was similar to the no name storm of October 1991.

The storm caused winds of hurricane force, which is 74 miles per hour or greater. Some towns saw winds greater than hurricane force These very strong winds occurred as the storm made its closest pass to southern New England as it moved across Nantucket.

These very strong, damaging winds caused numerous trees and power lines to fall, resulting in widespread power outages. The hardest hit areas were Cape Cod & the Islands, south shore towns, as well as towns in coastal Essex County.

At the peak, there were 500,000 power outages caused by this bomb cyclone. Utility crews came from Canada, as well as other parts of the US, to help with the restoration process. Here are some areas that had maximum wind gusts of hurricane force or greater: Edgartown on Martha’s Vineyard, 94mph; Vineyard Station, 87mph; Duxbury, 88mph; Dennis, 84mph; Wellfleet, 82mph; Woods Hole, 79mph; Scituate, 83mph; Hatch Beach in Barnstable County, 81mph; Chapin Beach in Barnstable County, 76mph; Deer Island, 77mph; Horseneck Beach, 75mph; Rockport, 78mph; Children’s Island, 76mph. Rainfall from this storm was about 1-2 inches. Some towns on Cape Cod got over 2 inches. Some towns in Essex County also got over 2 inches.

The highest rain totals were Chilmark on Martha’s Vineyard, 3.43 inches and Salem in Essex County, 3.20 inches. On Saturday October 30th this big storm was well out at sea. However, it was given a name: Wanda.

The reason for the name is that the National Hurricane Center saw the storm had developed some tropical characteristics. It became a sub-tropical storm, which is not a full-scale tropical storm. Wanda is the last name on the list. The next storm’s name will come from an alternate list. On Saturday October 30th we had another low pressure system give us more rain and some coastal winds. Rainfall was 1-2 inches with some areas getting higher amounts.

The coastal winds with this storm were nothing like the bomb cyclone. High temperatures reached the middle 60’s on the last day of October, making for a rather mild Halloween. Boston had a high temperature of 67 degrees which was ten degrees above normal for October 31st. What can we expect for November? Any cold temps? Snow? Warm temps?

Stay tuned for these answers in next month’s article. In the meantime, enjoy fall and stay safe!!

It Takes a Village, Does it?

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

It was back in January of 1996 that a book was published by a well-known author, The First Lady of the United States, Hillary Rodham Clinton, entitled, It Takes a Village, and the Lessons Children Teach Us. My question today in 2021 is, how has this been working out for us? Like everything else in life, we will always find an exception to the rule. For sure, you can find cases where a village was needed to bring up a child. To say otherwise is just not being honest. But for the most part, from what I can see in Holy Scripture, God holds the parents responsible for bringing up their children.

I understand the word Parent has many different meanings these days and I know that I am taking a risk using the term, but I am referring to a father and mother, a father meaning the sperm provider, and the mother the egg carrier. When the sperm and the egg come together, you get a fetus and after 8 weeks, it becomes an unborn baby. These two, Father and Mother, are who God holds responsible for bringing up the child, not the village! We read the following in Genesis 1:27-28, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."(NKJV) This is how God set up life and He said it was very good!

Next came the fall of man, the perfect order of living life was affected. Man thought he knew better than God, and he still does, which brings us back to the lie that it takes a village to bring up children.

Let's define the village. Today we expect everyone else to bring up our children. Parents have given over to the village, which for the most part means the government, child care, the public, or private school systems, their God-given right to bring up their children! How has this worked out for us? Case in point, the recent violence at Lawrence High School.

Let's point fingers and assign blame. Parents blame the schools and the Teacher's Union blames the Superintendent, the Administration, and COVID-19. I think I got this right. This might seem too simplistic, but when you boil everything down, essentially this is what it is. Try this for simplicity, the further away man gets from God's original plan for living life, the result will be chaos!

ALERT - DISCLAIMER - ALERT!!! I am not an expert on bringing up children! But I do have 3 children who are in love with Jesus Christ and they haven't turned out so bad.

The Bible speaks to what a blessed man looks like in Psalms 128:1-4, "Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD."(NKJV)

Notice it all starts with the fear of the Lord! This is not speaking of being afraid of God, but having a Reverence for God! Here is another verse in Psalms 103:17-18, "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, 18 To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them."(NKJV) Again, the word fear is used. We must keep in mind that these verses are in the Old Testament and to fear the lord meant to have Reverence towards him!

In the Gospels, Jesus changed the word fear to worship! We see and read this in Matthew 4:10, "Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"(NKJV) Jesus said to Satan, "It is written" He was referring to Deuteronomy 6:13, "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name."(NKJV) We can read that Jesus changed the word fear to worship. Why? Because God is Spirit as it says in John 4:24, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."(NKJV) Jesus knew that He was going to be crucified, die and be buried, and then be raised from the dead so that you and I along with everyone else could be saved! [John 3:16]

These are the types of things that our children and our children's children need to be taught by their parents and THAT'S who God holds responsible to teach their children and as you can see, to do this, it doesn't take a village!

My recommendation, stop the blame game and start doing what God wants parents to do! Last I checked, God is still Sovereign and HOPE is alive! Let's celebrate Thanksgiving by being Thankful for all of God's Blessings!

Psalms 103:1-5, "Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."(NKJV)

God Bless you all and have a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving!

Peter Larocque
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BENEATH THE SURFACE

Spiritual But Not Religious?

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

A conversation between A and B:

a – I'm spiritual but not religious.

b – Really. What does that mean?

a – Primarily, I don't believe in organized religion.

b – You believe in disorganized religion?

a – No silly. I believe there might be a higher power, but I meditate, do yoga, and eat vegan. I'm in touch with my inner self.

b – I hope you're in touch with your outer self too.

a – Like I said, I'm spiritual but don't like man-made religions.

b – Me neither. I'd never be part of a 'man-made' religion.

a – Good, than we can be spiritual together.

b – Not so fast. Let's address your two points of: a) spiritual, and b) man-made religions.

All people are spiritual. But they're also physical. We're composed of both soul and body.

a – Don't get all philosophical on me.

b – Secondly, being 'spiritual' is fine, but without the structure of a divinely Revealed religion,

this tends to become an exercise in self-centered pride, creating a morality that fits one's desires rather than objective truth and goodness.

a – You want to follow rules made by men in funny hats? Not me!

b – No. I want to follow God, who at times uses men in funny hats to offer His truth and Life.

What I'm saying is my religion is God-made, not man-made.

a – All religions are man-made.

b – Not true. Judaism and Christianity are about God reaching down to us. Christianity holds

that God actually became one of us, to save us from our self-imposed condition of death. And He established a Church to offer eternal life. Choosing a sinful lifestyle, however, is one's attempt at being 'spiritual but not religious.'

a – Nonsense. I am liberated from oppressive traditions and male dominated institutions!

b – Do you really believe your "spirituality," which changes with the wind, makes you truly happy?

a – I don't think about it much. Sure, I'm happy….I guess. As long as I keep my mind on the passing things of this world and don't offend anyone in the process.

b – Constant confusion and walking on eggshells is not freedom or happiness. In fact, it's the opposite. God established a Church to offer divine Truth and divine Life to a world that so desperately needs clarity and liberation. It's the ultimate medicine for the condition we all share all fallen human beings.

a – The Church is corrupt.

b – Sure, the human aspect of the Church is made up of sinners, but our hope is in the divine nature of the Church, which is its infallible essence, and the promise of the God-Man who established it. The bottom line is one cannot be spiritually 'good' without being religious. Let's talk more about this later.

a – Okay, but don't think you can convince me to give up my comfort zone.

b – I'll come with no expectations; only an open heart and a love of truth.

a –Meet me at Starbucks tomorrow and we'll share a latte and veggie burger.

b – I'll order my own food, thanks. See you there.

Paul is producer and host of Beneath the Surface video and radio podcasts, taught college philosophy & theology and is a staff writer/producer for St. Michael's Media. Check out his website at Paulmurano.com, and e-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com.

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